

REMARKS

Claims 5, 7, 9, and 13-20 have been canceled, and claims 1, 8 and 10 amended. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 10-12 remain in the application for prosecution on the merits. Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown et al. (US 6,176,808).

Claims 5, 7 and 13 have been canceled and so the examiner's rejections relative to these claims are now moot.

Claims 9 and 14 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the examiner has indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended and is now essentially original claim 9, as filed, rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 7. Independent claim 10 has been amended and is now essentially original claim 14, as filed, rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 10 and intervening claim 13. Since the examiner indicated that original dependent claims 9 and 14 are allowable over the cited art, amended claims 1 and 10 are now allowable over the cited art.


Additionally, claims 2-4, 6 and 8 ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 11 and 12 ultimately depend from claim 10, so these claims are also allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons given relative to their respective independent claims.

Conclusion:

The prior art made of record and not relied upon by the examiner has been reviewed and is not believed to be more relevant than the cited art. In summary, the Applicant believes that each formal and substantive requirement has now been met. Applicant respectfully requests the examiner withdraw all of the rejections. The case is now believed to be in appropriate form for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application or resolve any further questions, such a call is invited to Applicant's attorney, whose direct line is (734) 542-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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